REMARKS

Claims 2-7 and 12-13 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 2, 7 and 12-13 are amended and Claims 1 and 8-11 are canceled.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication in the Office Action that Claims 2-7 and 12-13 contain allowable subject matter.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,625,216 to Zhu (Zhu) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,524,845 to Sims (Sims). Applicant respectfully submits that cancellation of Claims 1 and 8-11 obviates this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration on the merits and prompt allowance are respectfully requested. In the event any questions arise regarding this communication or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

By:

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: 20 December 2004

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